

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Previously presented) A make-and-break contact material comprising an Ag-Ni-based alloy comprising

3.1 to 20.0 wt% of Ni,

Li_2CO_3 in an amount corresponding to 0.01 to 0.50 wt % of Li metal, and

a balance of Ag.

2. (Previously presented) A relay comprising the make-and-break contact material of claim 1.

3. (Previously presented) A switching part comprising the make-and-break contact material of claim 1, wherein said switching part performs electrical switching through a mechanical switching operation.

4. (Previously presented) A make-and-break contact material according to claim 1, wherein said contact material comprises 8.0 -15.0 wt% of Ni.

5. (Previously presented) A make-and-break contact material according to claim 1, wherein said contact material comprises Li_2CO_3 in an amount corresponding to 0.05 to 0.2 wt % of Li metal.

6. (Previously presented) A make-and-break contact material according to claim 1, wherein said Ni powder is uniformly dispersed in said Ag-Ni-based alloy.

7. (Previously presented) A make-and-break contact material according to claim 1, wherein said Ag powder is present in an amount that constitutes the balance of said alloy.

8. (Previously presented) A make-and-break contact material according to claim 1, wherein said contact material is adapted to withstand at least 900,000 times or more of switching when using a resistive load of 10A at AC 250V.

9. (Previously presented) A make-and-break contact material according to claim 8, wherein said contact material is part of a miniaturized make and break contact.

Please cancel claims 10-15.